AIR POUCH
HANDLING INDICATOR

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For Department Use Only
PPT

FOREIGN SERVICE DESPATCH

FROM : Amembassy MOSCOW

NO. 317

TO : THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON.

OCT 13 1961
October 12, 1961
DATE

REF : Department's OM of August 18, 1961

For Dept. Use Only	ACTION	PPT-2	INFO	DEPT	RM/R	REP	AF	ARA	EUR 5	FE	NEA	CU	INR 7	E	P	IO	ICA
				OTHER	AGR	COM	FRB	INT	LAB	TAR	TR	XMB					
	REC'D 10/19				AIR	ARMY	CIA 15	NAVY	OSD	OCB	USIA						

SCS-2

SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORTS - Lee Harvey Oswald

The Embassy reports herein on correspondence received from Lee Harvey OSWALD since its last communication to the Department on this subject (Despatch 29, July 11, 1961). Attached as enclosure No. 1 are copies of four letters received from Oswald dated July 15, August (without date), August 8, and October 4 respectively. (The spelling is Mr. Oswald's.)

It will be noted that Oswald is having difficulty in obtaining exit visas for himself and his Soviet wife, and that they are subject to increasing harassment in Minsk. In replying to Oswald's latest letter, the Embassy pointed out that it has no way of influencing Soviet action on exit visas. It informed him that the question of his passport renewal could be discussed with him personally at the Embassy. In answer to Oswald's question, the Embassy notified him that the petition to classify his wife's status had not yet been approved.

For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Boris H. Klosson

Boris H. Klosson
Counselor for Political Affairs

Enclosure: att 1
As stated

JBNorbury:mmn:hp
REPORTER

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FORM 6-61 F5-439 GPO 912596

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO.	ACTION TAKEN	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~
~~SECRET~~

circa May 1960

Rpt. 11/26/59

OSWALD, Lee Harvey

Place of Birth: 18 October 1939. New Orleans, Louisiana

Date of Defection: October 1959

Education: High school. Always a studious type, read books that were considered "deep".

Military Service:

Joined the Marines at 17. Says he did this because he didn't want to be a burden on his mother. Became a PFC, radar operator; 14 months service Japan and the Philippines. Honorable discharge on 3 September 1959 (dependency discharge).

Background:

Father, an insurance salesman, died before Lee was born. Has a brother who is a salesman at Acme Brick Company, Fort Worth, Texas, and a half brother John Vincent Pic age 28, a US Air Force Staff Sergeant stationed in Japan. Mother is currently employed as a supply mother at the Methodist Orphans Home, Waco, Texas. (DBF 49478, 25 May 1960)

See Telegram 11/9/59

According to newspaper article, reasons for his defection were a combination of family poverty, what he considers the plight of US negroes, and the US Marines or American imperialism abroad. At 15 or so he read "Das Kapital" and agreed with its theories. A year before his discharge, he began to prepare for life in the Soviet Union by using a Berlitz manual to teach himself now to read and write Russian. Never, however, did he consider deserting the Marine Corps.

After discharge from the Marines, Lee visited his mother in Fort Worth for about 3 days, then left for New Orleans where he planned to resume employment with an export-import company for which he had worked prior to enlisting in the Marines. Shortly after he arrived in New Orleans, he sent his mother a note saying that he had booked passage to Europe, that he was doing something he felt he must do. His arrival in Moscow came as a shock to the family. Travel money probably came from that saved while in the Marines. He had never expressed any sympathy for the Soviet Union or Communism. He had been interested in Cuba and South America and his family would have expected him to go there, if anywhere. Mail sent to him since his defection has been addressed to the Hotel Metropole, Moscow. He acknowledged receipt of his mail in 1959, but letters sent in 1960 have been returned to the senders. (DBF 49478)

In November 1959 the Soviets were investigating the possibility of sending Lee to a Soviet higher technical institute. (Ft. Worth Evening Star)
In May 1960 Mrs. Oswald received a letter from the Albert Schweitzer College

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By authority of: CIA Ltr. 12/22/72

Name and title of person making the change: MRG

Date 1/11/73

in Switzerland, and which was addressed to Lee, which said in effect that this college was expecting Lee Oswald on 20 April 1959. After receipt of the letter, Mrs. Oswald planned to write to the college to learn if her son was in actual attendance there. (DDF 49478)

The Soviets neither encouraged nor discouraged Oswald's desire to become a Soviet citizen. The American Embassy wanted him to think it over before hearing his oath renouncing American citizenship. As a result, Oswald is bitter towards the consul there. He has stated that regardless of any material shortcomings he sees while in the USSR, he will never go back to the USA.

Unless so noted, info is from the Washington Evening Star, 26 Nov. 1959.

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Name and title of person making the change: mhg

Date 1/11/73

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT)
NARA AB DATE 10/20/94

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For the Charge d'Affaires a.i.:

Boris H. Klosson

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Counselor for Political Affairs

Date 6 MAY 92
HRP 92-

Enclosure: atl
As stated

JBNorbury:mmn:hp
REPORTER

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FORM FS-439 GPO 912596

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ACTION ASSIGNED TO	ACTION TAKEN	
NAME OF OFFICER & OFFICE SYMBOL	DATE OF ACTION	DIRECTIONS TO RM/R

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

RELEASED PER P.L. 102-526 (JFK ACT) Incl. No. 1
NARA DATE 10/20/94 Desp. No. 317
From Moscow

TO: American Embassy, Moscow
July 15, 1961

Dear Sirs,

As per instructions I am writing to inform you of the process and progress, of our visas.

We have approced the local "OVEEP" office and the results are not discourgeing. However there have been some unusual and crude attempts on my wife at her place of work. While we were still in Moscow, the foremen at her place of work were notified that she and I went into to Embassy for the purpose of visas. Then there followed the usual, "enemy of the people"meeting, in which in her absence, she was condemed and her friends at work warned against speaking with her. However, these tactics are quite useless, and my wife stood up well, without getting into trouble.

We are continuing the process and will keep you informed as to the overall picture.

Sincerely yours,
Lee H. Oswald
(Embassy replied July 24, 1961)

TO: American Embassy, Moscow
August

Dears Sirs:

Here are the copies of the wedding certificate and birth certificate requested by the Embassy in relation with the entrance visa into the US for my wife, Mauna N. Oswald.

If other copies of these documents are necessary of if other documents are required please inform me.

Yours truly
Lee H. Oswald

TO: American Embassy, Moscow
August 8, 1961

Dear Sirs,

Since my American passport was stamped "Valid only for dirct travel to the U.S." I would like to know if it would be permissable for me to travel through Poland to Berlin by train, when I leave Minsk, since I cannot

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NARA RB DATE 10/20/94

No. 1
Desp. No 317
From Moscow

afford to fly direct from Moscow to New York.

My relations are also unable to help me, financeily.

I belive I could catch a military hop back to the States, from Berlin.

If the Embassy can advise or assist me I would appreciate it.

Perhaps a letter from the Embassy explaining my position, which I could then show the military in Berlin, would assist me to get a hop.

I sincerely hope you will give attention to my request.

Thank you
Lee H. Oswald

TO: the American Embassy
Moscow U.S.S.R., Oct. 4, 1961

Dear Sirs;

I am hereby requesting the Offices of the American Embassy and the Ambassador of the United States, Mr. Thompson, to act upon my case in regards to my application to the Soviet authorities for an exit visa.

This application was made on July 20, 1961, and althrough three months have already elapsed I have not recived this visa. There was no difficulty with the application itself or with the supporting documents including my valid American passport No. 1733242, which was returned to my on July 8, 1961, at the American Embassy in Moscow, where it had been kept for safe-keeping.

I have made repeated inquiries to the proper offices in Minsk but I have, as yet, to recive a satisfactory answer.

I belive there is justification for an official inquiry, directed to the department of "Internal Affairs, Prospect Stalin 15, Minsk," and the offices of the "address and passport office," Ulitsa Moskova, Colonel Petrakof director."

Also, I belive it is doubley important for an official inquiry, since there have been systematic and concerted attempts to intimidate my wife into withdrawing her application for on visa. I have notified the Embassy in regard to these incidents by the local authorities in regard to my wife, these incidents had resulted in my wife being hospitalized for a five day

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Encl. No. 1
Desp. No. 317
From Moscow

period, on September 22, 1961, for nervous exhaustion.

On July 11, 1961 I executed a petition to classify status of alien for issuance of immigration visa, on behalf of my wife, I assume there has been no difficulty with it.

I think if is within the lawful right, and in the interest of, the United States goverment, and the American Embassy, Moscow, to look into this case on my behalf.

Yours very truly
Lee H. Oswald
(Embassy replied October 12, 1961)